



Welcome to Spiritual Formation in Community

***“Wash – Rinse – Repeat...
scrubbed clean by the Word.”***



Check-In

*Where in your last 7 days
did you feel the battle?*

My Daily Mantra...

I woke up in the Kingdom this morning

an unceasing spiritual being with an eternal destiny in God's great universe



I breathe Kingdom air (LOVE)
I burn Kingdom fuel (GRACE)
I build Kingdom character
I do Kingdom work



A Kingdom life is one that is different from most of the people waking up in the world around me.

REVIEW - Characteristics of a Kingdom Life

Eternal

A Kingdom person thinks in terms of eternity

Purposeful

A Kingdom person moves with Kingdom purpose

Relational

A Kingdom person operates in a constant conversational Kingdom relationship

Redemptive

A Kingdom person lives in a process of transformation

Attractive

A Kingdom person is the kind of person on the inside others want to be like

Alive to one reality – Dead to another

1 Corinthians 2:9-16



Living in a Spiritual Reality



How are we to think about spiritual reality?

Spirit is **unembodied personal power**.

By contrast, the **opposite** would be **embodied nonpersonal power**, or **electricity, magnetism, and gravity**.

The biblical conception of the spiritual is that of **an ordered realm of personal power founded in the God who is himself spirit and not a localizable physical body**

The spiritual is a realm **fundamental** to the **existence** and **behavior** of all **natural** or **physical** reality; a realm **accessed by faith**, an **active engagement of belief**

John 1:1-14; Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:2; 11:3

Why did God give us the 2nd commandment?

Exodus 20:4

Living in a Spiritual Reality



What is missing from our lives that would explain why they are so deformed and unlike what God describes they should be like?

- It is the appropriate relation to the Spiritual Reality which is the Kingdom of God
- Without it our life is left mutilated, stunted, weakened, and deformed in various stages of disintegration and corruption

Living in a Spiritual Reality



The spiritual aspect of a person compared with the physical aspect

- The power of our spirit is a **HIGHER** power and the power of the physical or natural is a **LOWER** power
- This is important to keep in mind as we think about living in a Spiritual Reality
- The Spiritual (HIGHER) in us leads, guides, directs, and in various ways influences the Physical (LOWER)

As humans we have an astonishing power to use what is beyond ourselves - this is the fundamental concept behind living in a spiritual reality

- When we extend our powers over the earth and its inhabitants, we can do healing things that bring good to people, and we can destroy each other and the planet in the process
- The difference is in what the spiritual aspect of our being chooses
- The spiritual aspect of us rules and directs the physical; we have available to us a power outside us, with an immense ability to do what we cannot do on our own

- What does this say about the condition of our world?
- What does this say about the condition of your world?
- What happens to a person whose spiritual aspect is dead to God? Alive to God?

Living in a Spiritual Reality



**This is actually the Bible's definition of sin,
the condition of fallen man whose spirit is dead to God**

- The **condition** of **sin** is caused by a **deficiency**, or life **deprived** of something **critical** needed to be **fully alive**; a life **deprived** of the **Spirit of God**

The light bulb is dead when disconnected from the electrical current, even though it still exists. But when connected to the current, it radiates and affects its surroundings with a power and substance that is in it but not of it

As with the light bulb, what would a life look like that was being constantly transformed by living in a Spiritual Reality?

- Fundamentals like **learning to talk, discovering the alphabet, creating words and assigning them meaning, reading, using mathematics** - think about how this has formed what we know as living!
- What if we had **spiritual fundamentals** that similarly **changed** the way we **experience** life? Fundamentals **transforming** what we know as **physical** or **natural** life?
- **These missing fundamentals, basic to Kingdom living** are the **reason** we do not experience **abundant life**, a **Life on the Rock** - and this is true **individually** and **corporately**

What are the spiritual fundamentals necessary for a Spiritual Reality?

- Everything Jesus taught about the Kingdom Way

Living in a Spiritual Reality



Wash - Rinse - Repeat (each part of the human personality)

The **Word of God** is used by the **Spirit of God** to **scrub dirt** from our **soul**.
Ephesians 5:25-27

- **Our souls have accumulated impurities, clutter, and distractions**
- The **entire human personality** becomes **permeated** with these **impurities**
- Not only do these impurities **NOT** get **washed away** when we say "**Yes**" to God's call to follow him, because we do such a **poor job** of **following him**, they **continue to accumulate**
- The **result** is a **weakened spiritual life**, and a **physical life** that takes over **making decisions** it was **never intended** to make

- **Washing a dirty shirt**, water and soap **move through the fibers** of the shirt material, **removing** and **carrying off** the **dirt lodged** within the fibers
- When we **come to God**, our **mind** and **heart** like the dirty shirt are **cluttered** with **false beliefs**, **unhealthy attitudes**, **deadly feelings**, **shame-inducing deeds from the past**, and **misguided hopes, plans and fears**
- The **Word of God enters** our **mind** and **heart**, **washes** out the **dirt**, and **replaces** all that is **false** with what is **true** - what better reason could there be for reading the Bible daily?

Romans 12:1-2; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Psalm 51:10; John 15:3



Table Talk

*Regarding family, friends,
faith, work, & play, how
would thinking eternally
change one for you?*

Read Psalm 1:1-6

and working your way around your printout of the **Spiritual Formation and Human Person** handout, ask your **Circle of 4** to teach you how the verse can **Wash - Rinse - Repeat** every element of your soul.

Homework

An underwater photograph showing several divers in a blue, slightly hazy environment. The divers are silhouetted against the light, and their fins are visible. The scene is dynamic, with bubbles and movement, suggesting an active underwater activity.

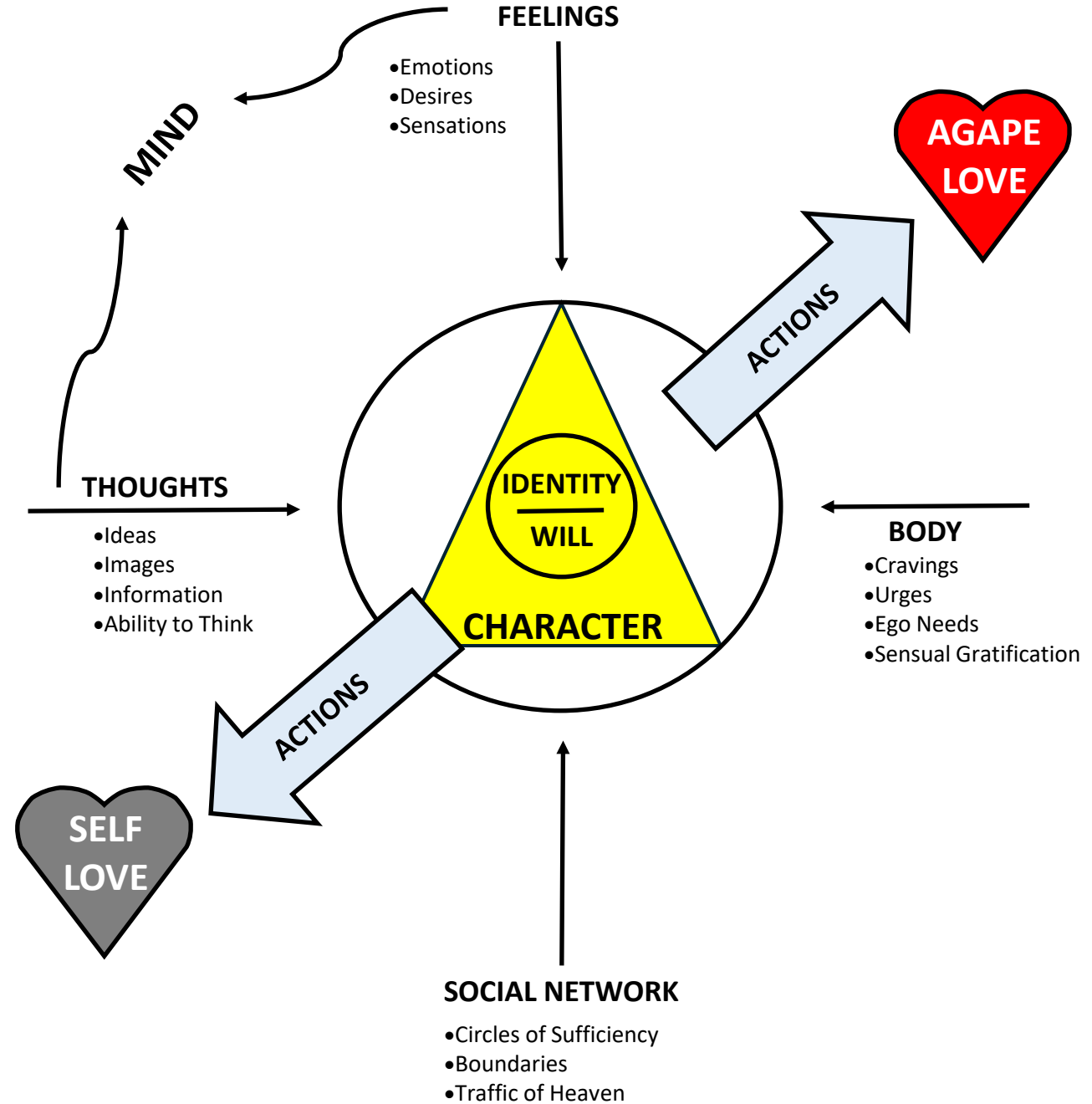
Homework Review



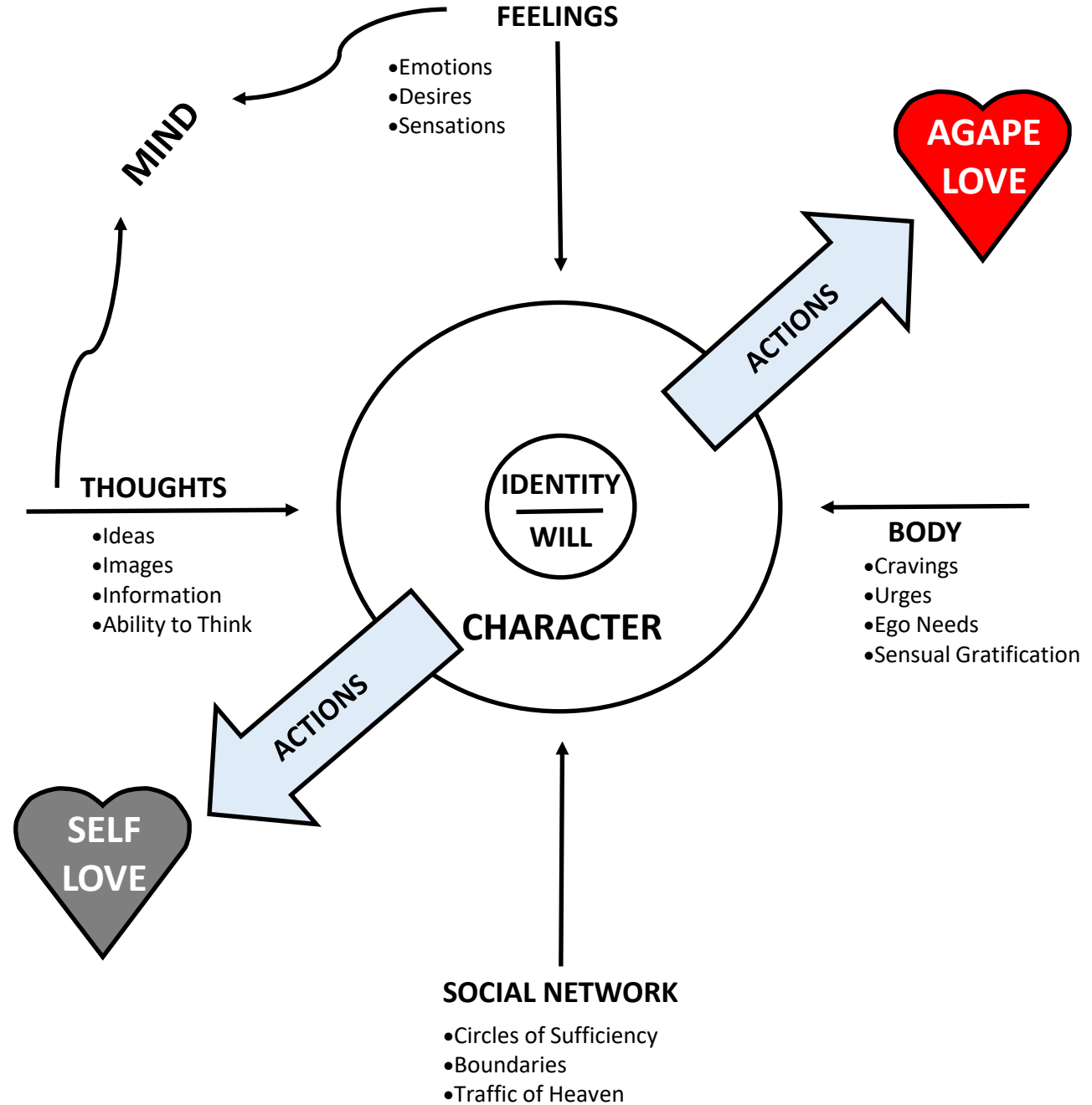
- Where are you seeing God at work in you, around you, or through you?
- What are you learning about your inner person?

(thoughts, feelings, body, relationships, character, identity, will)

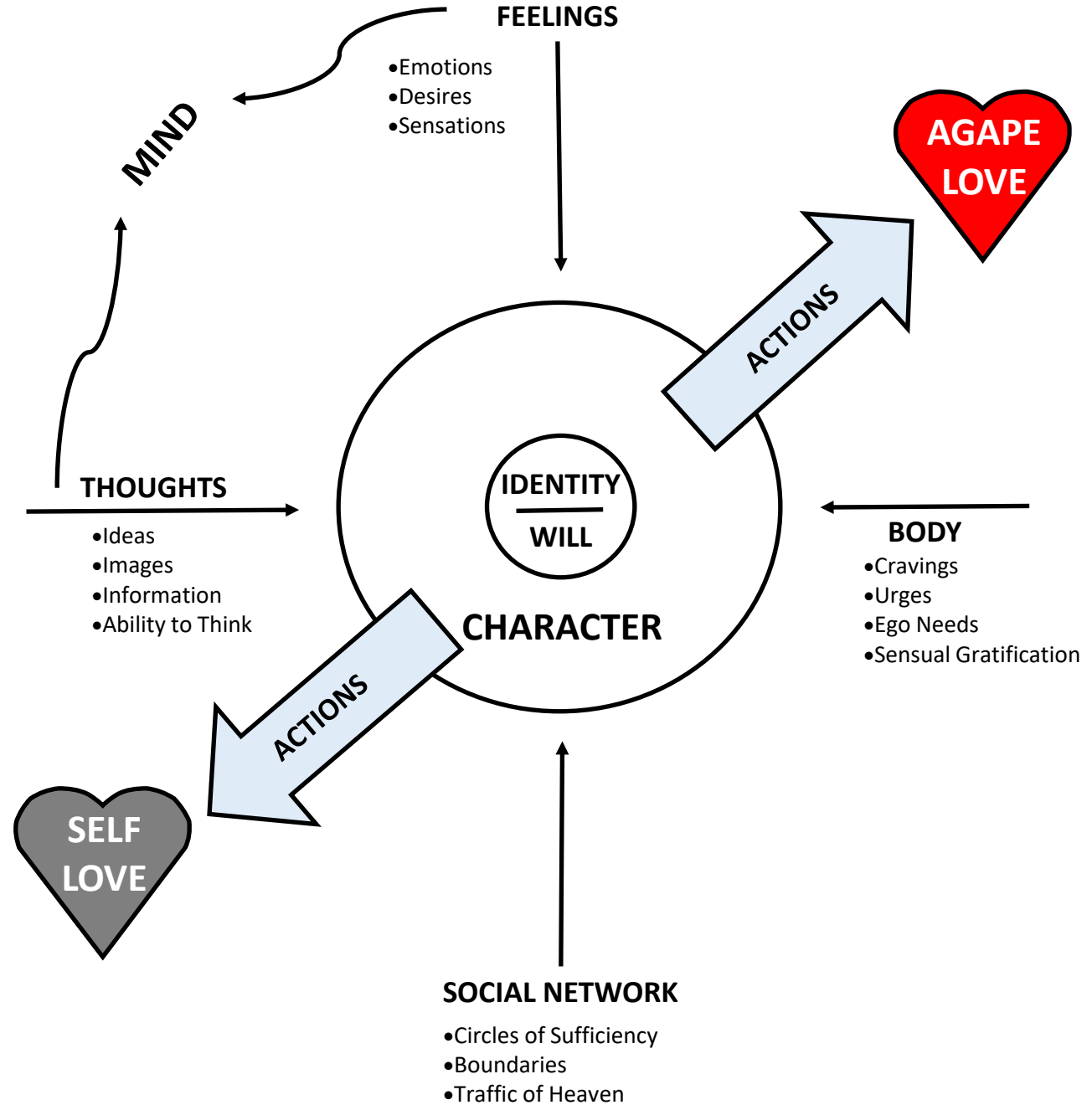
Spiritual Formation *in the Kingdom of God*



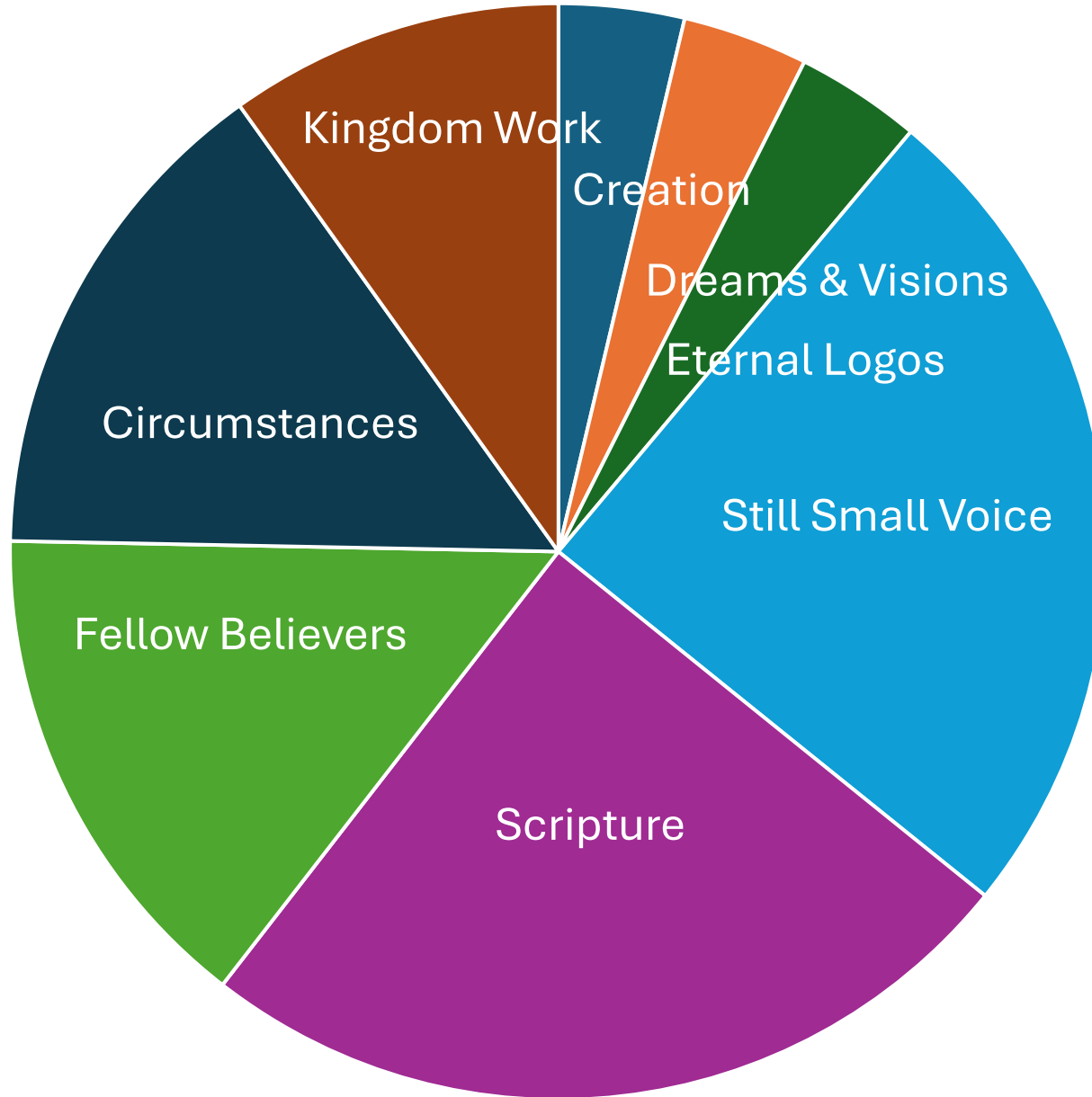
Spiritual Formation *in the Kingdom of God*



Spiritual Formation *in the Kingdom of God*



The Many Ways the Word of God Comes to Us



■ Creation ■ Dreams & Visions ■ Eternal Logos ■ Still Small Voice ■ Scripture ■ Fellow Believers ■ Circumstances ■ Kingdom Work

I Wake up in the Kingdom

an unceasing spiritual being with an eternal destiny in God's great universe

- **Breathing Kingdom Air (love)**
- **Burning Kingdom Fuel (grace)**
- **Building Kingdom Character**
 - **Doing Kingdom Work**